

Threatened and Endangered Species of Jasper County

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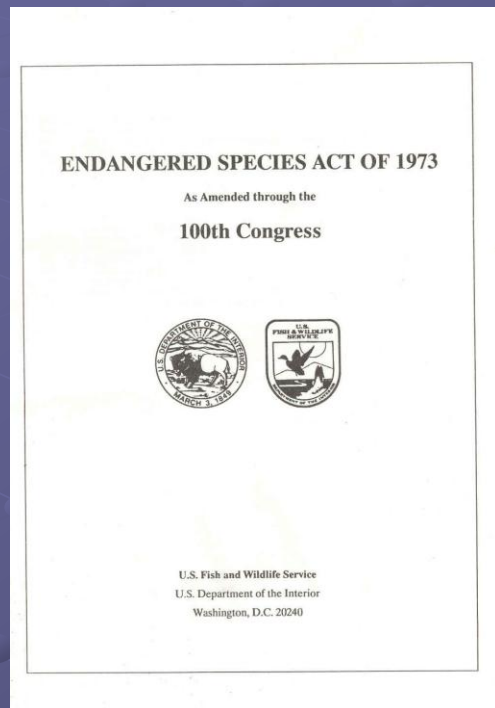


The Fish and Wildlife Service

Mission Statement

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's mission is, working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people."

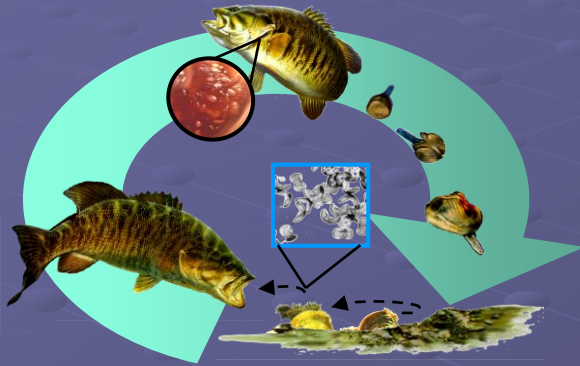
The Endangered Species Act of 1973



Fish, wildlife, and plant species have aesthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value to the U.S.

Why do species become endangered?

Reproduction



Habitat Loss



Loss of a Life-line

Food



Harvest/Predation



Types of Impacts

- **Direct** – immediate effect of the project on the species or its habitat
- **Indirect** – effects caused by or result from the proposed action and are reasonably certain to occur
- **Cumulative** - effects of future actions that are reasonably certain to occur

Section 7 of the ESA

- When does Section 7 apply?
 - If an action is funded, authorized, or carried out by a Federal agency (federal nexus), then Section 7 applies



Consultation Process

- Federal agency or applicant, as the designated non-federal entity, contacts local Service field office to determine if listed species are present within the action area
 - Service responds to request by providing a list of species that are known or are possible in the vicinity
 - If Service provides a negative response, no further consultation is required
 - If a species is present, Federal agency must determine if the action may affect them

Jasper County T &E Species

- West Indian manatee
- Bald eagle
- Red-cockaded woodpecker
- Wood stork
- Piping plover
- Kemp's ridley sea turtle
- Leatherback sea turtle
- Loggerhead sea turtle
- Green sea turtle
- Flatwoods salamander
- Shortnose sturgeon
- Pondberry
- Canby's dropwort
- Chaff-seed

Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) (*Picoides borealis*)

- 7" in length, black white barred back with white cheek patch
- Non-migratory, cooperative breeders
- RCW Group = family unit









RCW Surveys

- All suitable habitat should be surveyed before any disturbance begins
- All suitable as well as marginal habitat should be surveyed in areas of known RCW groups
- Surveyors should look for trees with fresh resin, cavities approximately 2" in diameter, and smaller starter holes.



RCW Surveys Cont.

- RCW forage within ½ mile of cavities trees
- Surveys may be required up to a half mile away from a proposed project
- Surveys for linear projects could be up to one mile in width
- Landowners may have no RCW cavity trees on their property but still have foraging habitat responsibilities
- Requirements greater on federal properties

Development Projects

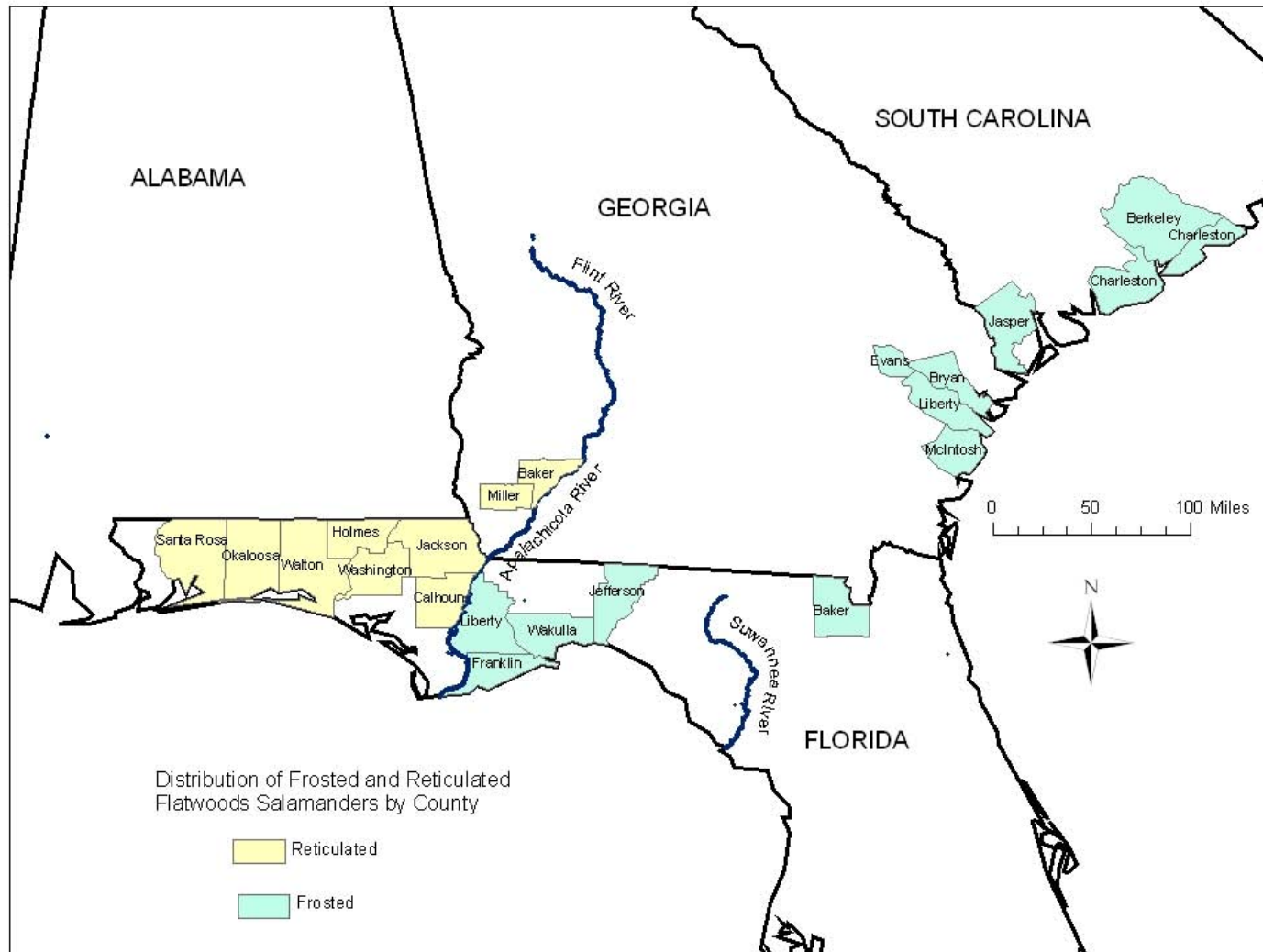
- Projects may result in “take” if they reduce foraging habitat below 75 acres or 3000 sq.ft., or occur within 200’ of a cavity tree
- Projects may indirectly impact RCWs if they impair the ability to prescribe burn

Flatwoods Salamander

- Listed as threatened on April 1, 1999
- Optimum habitat consists of ephemeral ponds in longleaf pine-wiregrass flatwoods and savannas
- Breeding occurs from late September to December when ponds flood.
- Larval salamanders metamorphose in March or April



Flatwoods Salamander Range



Flatwoods Salamander Distribution...

- Historically found in Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Jasper, and Orangeburg counties
- Recent survey information is limited, primarily to the Francis Marion NF



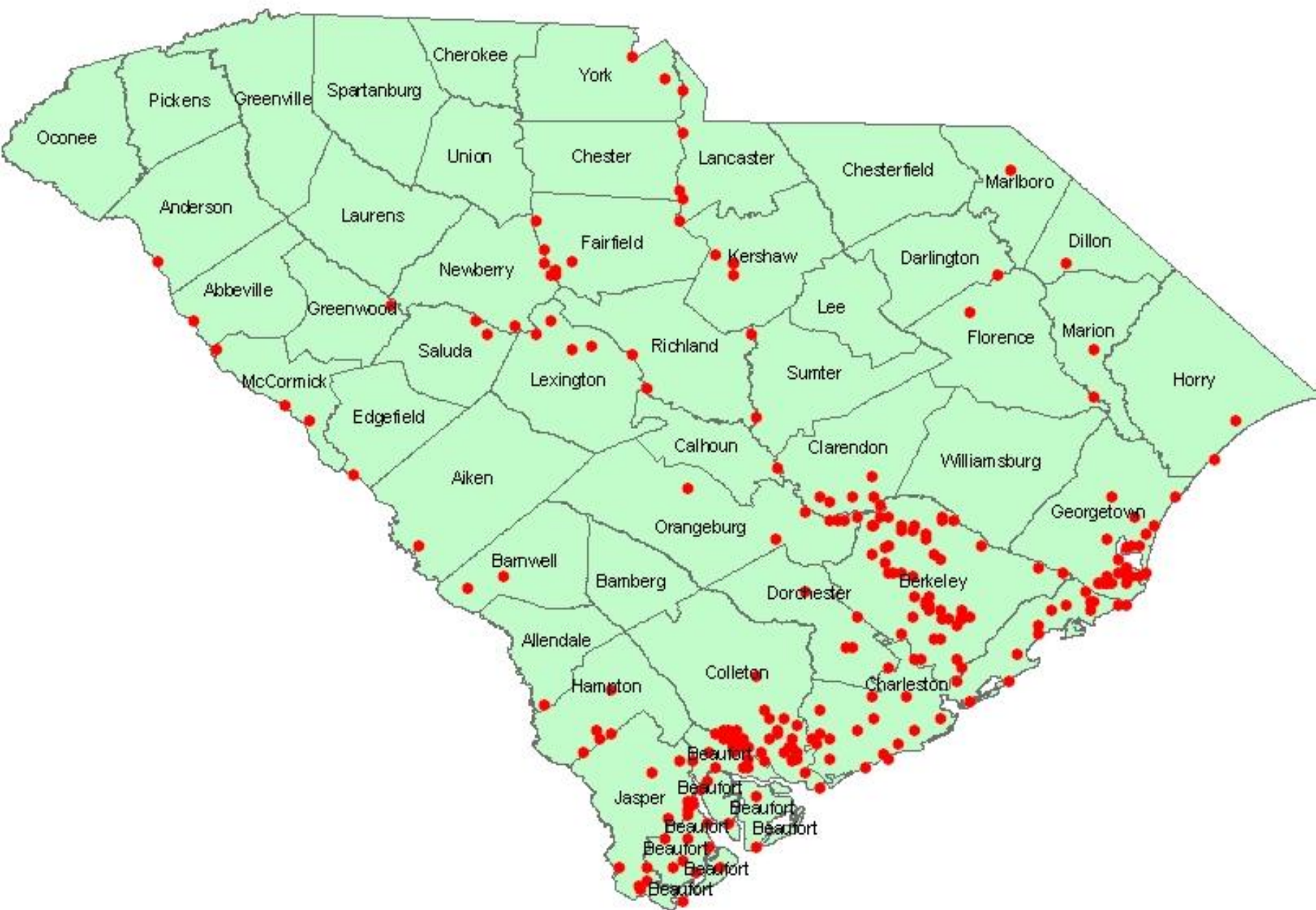
Bald Eagles



Bald Eagle Biology

- Nesting season is October 1 – May 15 in SC
- Both sexes tend to nest
 - Typically nest in supercanopy pine trees near water
 - Female usually lays 2 eggs
- Both sexes incubate (+Female, -Male)
 - Incubation 36 days
- Chicks are semialtrical
 - Both sexes tend to chicks
 - Fledge after 12 weeks





Bald Eagle De-listing

- Removed from Threatened and Endangered Species List
- Conserved by Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA)
- Guidance for buffers and disturbance similar under BGEPA



Wood Storks



Wood Stork Biology

- Nesting season is February 15 – September 1 in SC
- Both sexes build nest
 - Nest in colonies in bald cypress trees in SC
 - Female usually lays 3 eggs
- Both sexes incubate
 - Incubation 28-32 days
- Chicks are semialtricial
 - Both sexes tend to chicks
 - Fledge between 55-60 days



**HABITAT
MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES
FOR THE WOOD STORK IN THE
SOUTHEAST REGION**





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Questions?

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